

# NEWS

*For immediate release*



**MARICOPA COUNTY**  
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## **COUNTY NAMES TOP FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS** **FOUR RECEIVE AWARD FOR STRICT FOOD SAFETY PRACTICES**

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Maricopa County will present the first "Excellence in Food Safety Award" on Wednesday, May 3, 2000 to four food service facilities for demonstrating a commitment to protecting consumer health through strict food safety practices.

"The award recognizes and applauds the efforts of the individual establishments for food protection programs developed to ensure the quality and safety of the food they serve to the public," said David Ludwig, Maricopa County Environmental Health Manager.

The first award recipients for "Excellence in Food Safety" are The HoneyBaked Ham Company location at 4635 E. Cactus Road in Phoenix, Mary Richardson's Country Pot Pies at 3188 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix, and Albertsons, Inc. Service Deli at 5040 W. Cactus in Glendale and their Meat Market at 8150 West Peoria Avenue in Peoria.

**The award presentation, interviews and tours will be made on Wednesday, May 3, 2000, at the following times:**

- **Albertsons, Inc. Service Deli at 5040 W. Cactus in Glendale at 10 a.m.**
- **The HoneyBaked Ham Company, at 4635 E. Cactus Road in Phoenix at 12 p.m. (noon)**
- **Mary Richardson's Country Pot Pies at 3188 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix at 2 p.m.**

The entries went through a rigorous review process by a five-panel committee and were judged on their past 12-month inspection history, risk-based food safety program, crisis management plan, food recall tracking system, pest control program, consumer advisory program, employee education system and employee illness policy.

The selection committee is comprised of representatives from industry, the public, media and Maricopa County Environmental Health staff, which will be issuing the Excellence in Food Safety Award on a biannual basis. The committee will be accepting entries for the next selection on June 1, 2000.

For more information on applications for the Excellence in Food Safety Award, contact Aimee Upton, Environmental Health Lead Specialist, at (602) 506-6978.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS: OTHER TIMES FOR TOURS AND INTERVIEWS AT THE ESTABLISHMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED BY CONTACTING COURTNEY JAMES, PIO, AT (602) 506-6948.**